

Nead Na Spidoige
Augeris
Ballingeary P12 H702
Macroom
Cork

01 September 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

Application to An Bord Pleanala for Substitute Consent - ABP-306272-19

I write to place on record my objection to the application for retrospective planning consent by Cleanrath Windfarm Ltd concerning the development and erection of numerous wind turbines in the townlands as described on the notice posted at the junction of my road at Augeris, Ballingeary, Co Cork on the 12th August 2020.

My property and the local area is overlooked by the majority of these turbines. My grounds for objection are concerns regarding the impact these turbines have created within the communities in which they have been erected and the fact that they now totally dominate the landscape and can now be observed for miles around. Coupled with this is the background noise generated by the blades which are a constant reminder that we once lived in an area of peace and tranquility...conditions appreciated by generations of residents and visitors to this area of natural beauty and heritage.

This area now resembles an industrial site that is unimaginable in its destruction of an area of scenes of open landscapes and mountain ranges now topped by these towering wind turbines and giant blades.

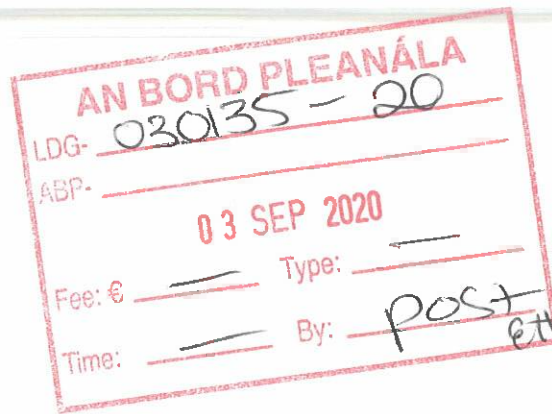
The published Irish National Landscape Strategy lays down guidelines and obliges the country to implement policy changes and objectives concerning the management, protection and planning of the landscape - this also falls within the European Landscape Convention (ELC).

The traditional view of landscape relate to places, generally rural, of scenic beauty, the ELC puts on record that it recognises the importance of all landscapes as having a crucial bearing on our quality of life and as deserving attention in landscape policy (Article1.a.)

Irish government draft guidelines also define landscape character in relation to wind-farm development (Section 3.7.1.) Which states that it is important that wind energy development is never perceived to visually dominate the landscape.

I put forward my observation that the Cleanrath development does exactly that; it is excessive with open and full exposure in the landscape coupled with dominant height above the hills on which the turbines have been erected - they are too high relative to the scale of the hills and contravene the guidelines as they result in spatial dominance of the landscape.

The Irish government draft goes into great detail regarding landscape character and it's natural components along with cultural perceptions such as history, social associations and aesthetic values that also play a major role.



An Bord Pleanala
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1

This development fails to take into account that it obliterates a landscape containing an extraordinary variety of heritage sites, prehistoric features, historical ruins along with religious and battle sites.

The L3402 road runs between Ballingeary and Renaniree and contains access to the Beara Breifne Cycle Route and the Sli Gaeltacht Mhuscraí walk...these are perceived as some of the richest in terms of Irish culture and is the only local way that passes through a Gaeltacht where Irish language is spoken on a daily basis. These are valued nationally and internationally and are recognised as a tourism asset. They are now dominated by the Cleanrath Windfarm development.

The importance of these factors was highlighted by a recent decision by Cork County Council in turning down an application to build a wind-farm on a site at Curraglass which is 5.5K SW of Ballingeary. This would have impacted an area of open landscape above Gougan Barra which was described in appeal as having "innate visual quality heightened by its remoteness" (ABP-306263-19) In summing up the refusal the Final Schedule notice stated that it considered the proposed development would materially contravene the stated objectives of the Cork County Development Plan, 2014 and accordingly, would be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

I put forward the argument that the grounds for refusal in the Curraglass application also apply to the already built Cleanrath development which can be seen to contravene the objectives of the Cork County Development plan of 2014.

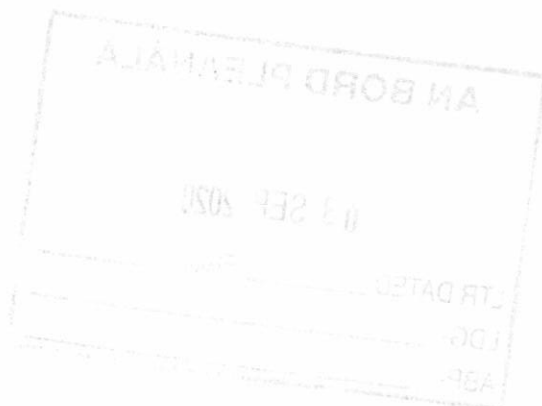
Yours sincerely



David Stearman-Smith LLB, MSc, CFE,

Fraud Risk Consultant & Legal Adviser

Tel: (+353) 083 1912 983



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The L3402 road runs between Ballingarry and Bannuree and contains access to the Bears Britne Cycle Route and the Sli Geallach Minscarl walk. These are perceived as some of the richest in terms of Irish culture and is the only local way that passes through a Gaeltacht where Irish language is spoken on a daily basis. These are valued nationally and internationally and are recognised as a tourism asset. They are now dominated by the Cleenash Windfarm development.

The importance of these factors was highlighted by a recent decision by Cork County Council in turning down an application to build a wind-turbine on a site at Outglass which is 0.5K SW of Ballingarry. This would have impacted an area of open landscape above Gougan Barra which was described in appeal as having "innate visual quality heightened by its remoteness" (ABP-306263-19). In summing up the refusal the Final Schedule notice stated that it considered the proposed development would materially contravene the stated objectives of the Cork County Development Plan, 2014 and accordingly, would be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

I put forward the argument that the grounds for refusal in the Outglass application also apply to the already built Cleenash development which can be seen to contravene the objectives of the Cork County Development Plan of 2014.

Yours sincerely



David Stearman-Smith LLB, MSc, CPE,

Friend Risk Consultant & Legal Adviser

Tel: (+353) 083 1912 983

